Nepal, with a view to ensuring that adulterated food items do not find their way into the Indian market.

Opening of Consulates in Kerala

60. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of thirty lakhs Indians working in the Gulf countries, more than a half hail from Kerala and they have often to shuttle between Kerala and Delhi/Mumbai for attestation of travel documents and visas clearance;

(b) whether a consular presence of at least some of the Gulf countries like Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain in the order of preference based on the Keralite population in these countries is required; and

(c) whether Government would take efforts at diplomatic level to open the Consulates of the above countries in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) All Indian nationals, including those from Kerala, need to approach the concerned Embassy in New Delhi or the concerned Consulate in the nearest city for obtaining visa and attestation of documents.

(b) and (c) Consular presence outside the capital city is considered by the foreign governments on the basis of their own assessment of their requirements and resources.

Release of funds under MPLADS

61. SHRI CO. POULOSE:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned, allocated and released to each Member of Parliament under MPLADS since 1995; year-wise;

(b) whether there is any delay in releasing the amount;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for early release of funds under MPLADS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The total amount released to various MPs since the inception of the Scheme as on 31.1.2000 aggregates to Rs. 4579.3 crores. The MP-wise details of funds released by Government of India, amount sanctioned by the Collectors and expenditure incurred are available in the "Statement of release and expenditure of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS" being brought out by this Ministry every month. A copy of this statement is regularly made available to the Library of Parliament. The information is also available on Internet at URL www.nic.in/dpi.

(b) to (d) MALADS funds are released on receipt of an expenditure statement stating that the unsanctioned balance has fallen below Rs. 50 lakhs. For this purpose a proforma has been circulated to all the District Collectors. The District Collectors have also been advised to sanction all the works recommended by MPs as per their entitlement of funds without waiting for the receipt of funds from this Ministry and to send a report in the prescribed format so that funds may be released to the fullest extent. The MPs, in turn, have been requested to recommend a sufficient number of works to the concerned Collector for optimum utilisation of MPLADS funds.